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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Union of South Africa	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Government Ban on President of African National Congress (ANC) and ANC Plan for Counter-Action	DATE DISTR.	14 August 1953
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1. Chief Albert J. Luthuli, President General of the African National Congress (ANC), has been served notice by Minister of Justice Swart to resign immediately from the ANC, to refrain from participating in any of its meetings, and to consider himself restricted to his local area. This action was taken under the Suppression of Communism Act.¹
2. Subsequently, the ANC Action Committee held a meeting in order to consider a successor to Chief Luthuli and to formulate plans for the future. No decision was reached in regard to a successor, but it was decided to elect one shortly. In the event of the successor being banned, the ANC would go underground and would "take positive action" against the Government.²

1. Comment. According to press reports, Chief Luthuli was banned from attending meetings under the terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act, but the press has made no mention of his enforced resignation from the ANC. In fact, the most recent issue of the Bantu World still refers to Luthuli as President of the ANC. Thus, Source may have been misinformed on this point. However, if Luthuli was ordered to resign from ANC, the Minister of Justice may well have issued the order under terms of the Suppression of Communism Act. Chief Luthuli is one of the most moderate members of ANC, and, judging by his speeches and apparent attitude, he is definitely not a Communist. However, under the currently extremely broad interpretation of the Suppression of Communism Act, the Government is legally within its rights in banning him from participating in the activities of the ANC.

2. Comment. Although Source did not say what the "positive action" might be, he hinted broadly that it might include acts of sabotage.

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